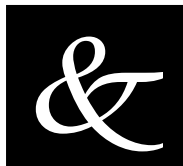


## State Region Offices

The council provides assistance and information for women throughout the state through six regional offices. The staff from these offices provides valuable information and technical assistance to the public and local organizations by educating them on the status of women in North Carolina and working with them to develop strategies for improvement. Region directors also oversee state displaced homemaker, domestic violence, abuser treatment and sexual assault programs within their regions. Additionally, they are available as resources for individual citizens and for organizations in their respective areas in presenting conferences and workshops.



### NC COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION

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Offices at 526 N. Wilmington Street

Phone: (919) 733-2455  
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[www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cfw/cfw.htm](http://www.doa.state.nc.us/doa/cfw/cfw.htm)

## Region Offices

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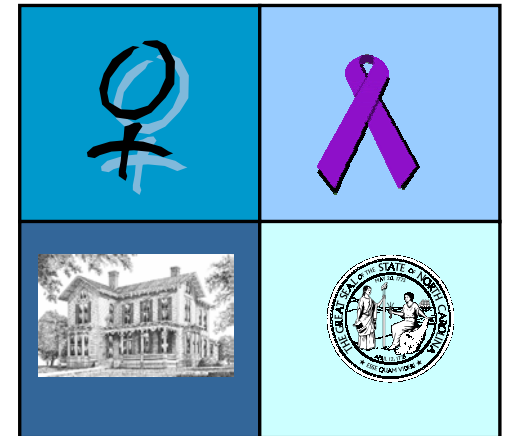
### SOUTHEASTERN REGION

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## THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMISSION



Leslie Starsoneck,  
Executive Director  
N.C. Council for Women and  
Domestic Violence Commission

Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Gwynn T. Swinson, Secretary  
N.C. Dept. of Administration

## Mission

The mission of the N.C. Council for Women and Domestic Violence Commission is to advise the governor, the North Carolina legislature and the state departments on the special needs of women in North Carolina by

- ❖ Identifying and assessing needs
- ❖ Collecting and distributing information about the status of women
- ❖ Acting as a resource for local Councils/Commissions for Women
- ❖ Collaborating with other groups and individuals working on behalf of women
- ❖ Identifying and assessing statewide needs, including domestic violence
- ❖ Assuring that necessary services, policies, and programs are provided to those in need and strengthening existing programs

## History

The Council was created by Executive Order of the Governor in 1963. Funds were appropriated in 1973. The Domestic Violence Commission was created in 1999 by Executive Order. Funds were appropriated in that year. The agencies consolidated in 2001. Both the Council and Domestic Violence Commission rely on the services of many private citizens concerned about the work of each.

## Annual Events

*Distinguished Women's Awards:* An annual banquet honors women for their outstanding contributions to the state in each of these seven categories: the arts, business/professions, education, government, journalism, volunteerism, Jean H. Nelson Award.

*Leadership CONNECTIONS:* This project focuses on suburban, urban and rural female teenagers throughout North Carolina. The retreat and training provide educational activities and creative opportunities for 1) building self-esteem with a focus on developing positive cultural awareness; 2) developing positive behavioral and attitudinal responses; 3) developing job skills, and; 4) violence prevention awareness. An end-of-year annual retreat is held on a college campus. This gives young females a glimpse of college experience.

*Salutes to Women in the Military:* Regional banquets and luncheons are held annually in November, Women in the Military Month, to honor over 10,700 active-duty and 30,600 veteran military women in North Carolina.

## Programs

### Abuser Treatment Program

In 1995 the General Assembly amended statute 50-B to require courts referring domestic violence offenders, as part of a protective order action, to only refer to programs approved by the N.C. Department of Administration. Currently, the agency has 60 programs on a list of providers.

### Displaced Homemaker Program

Although legislation passed in 1979 calling for the Council to provide services for those

needing to enter or re-enter the job market, funding was not available until 1993. It was augmented by a rise in the divorce filing fee, and the funds partially support thirty programs across the state at this time. They are designed to help women recognize their skills and train or re-train if necessary to support their entry into the workplace.

### Domestic Violence Program

The first shelter opened in North Carolina in 1976. In 2001-2002 there were 77 programs, with 16 satellite programs reaching all 100 counties, funded in part by the state. The Council provides oversight for the funds appropriated by the General Assembly for this service. Programs for children who have witnessed violence and transitional housing opportunities contribute to the process of helping families live in a violence-free environment.

### Domestic Violence Commission

The Commission, funded in 1999, met and submitted forty-seven recommendations for changes, additions, omissions, and new programs. Six committees were formed to carry out the Commission's conclusions and to continue to examine the status and needs of families in their effort to live in a violence-free environment.

### Rape Prevention Program

Federal funds were provided in 1996 to provide rape prevention education. In 2001-2002 all counties received services from the program.

### Sexual Assault Program

The Council called for a random survey in 1978 that showed the hidden prevalence of rape in our society. Funds were voted by the legislature to support the first Rape Crisis programs in FY 87-88. There are currently 67 programs.